

# Statistics Weekly

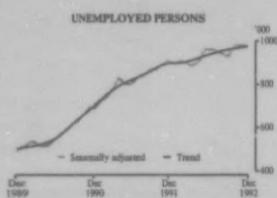
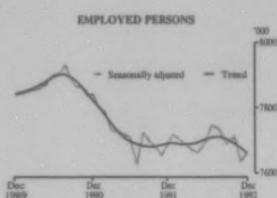
Thursday, 21 January 1993

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## Full-time employment trend flat

The trend estimate of full-time employment in December 1992 was almost unchanged from the November estimate. The underlying trend has now been relatively flat since July 1992. The trend estimate of total employment fell for the fourth successive month after increasing in the previous five months. Trend estimates of unemployed persons continue to increase as does the trend unemployment rate.



## Employment

The December 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,660,600, an increase of 24,500 since November. Full-time employment increased by 34,000 to 5,878,600. Male full-time employment rose by 14,000 to 3,983,700, and the number of females employed full time increased by 20,000 to 1,894,900. Part-time employment fell by 9,600 to 1,782,000, with a rise of 7,100 in the number of males employed part time offset by a fall of 16,600 in female part-time employment.

## Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for December 1992 was 978,700, virtually unchanged from the October and November estimates. For males, unemployment fell by 13,100 to 598,100, mainly due to a fall of 10,200 in the number of 15 to 19 year olds seeking full-time work. Female unemployment increased by 12,000 to 380,600, with an increase of 12,500 in the number of adult females seeking full-time work.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate for December was 11.3 per cent, compared with 11.4 per cent in November. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 11.9 per cent while for females, it increased by 0.3 percentage points to 10.5 per cent.

## Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 62.7 per cent, compared with 62.6 per cent in November. For males, the rate was unchanged at 73.9 per cent, while for females, the rate increased slightly to 51.7 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES  
Seasonally adjusted

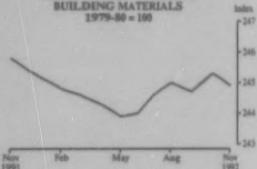
	Employed				Unemployment rate per cent	Participation rate per cent
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Unemployed		
	— '000 —					
<b>1992</b>						
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	959.6	11.0	63.5
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	947.5	10.9	63.2
September	5,862.5	1,826.0	7,688.4	927.7	10.8	62.7
October	5,860.3	1,854.2	7,714.5	979.5	11.3	63.2
November	5,844.6	1,791.6	7,636.1	979.9	11.4	62.6
December	5,878.6	1,782.0	7,660.6	978.7	11.3	62.7

## Building material prices steady

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS  
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100



There was little or no change in building material prices from October to November 1992. Overall, prices of materials used in house building were unchanged while prices of materials used in other forms of building decreased by 0.2 per cent.

For materials used in house building, a number of small price increases were fully offset by small decreases. The main contributors to the movement for materials used in other forms of building were elevators and escalators (down 2.2%) and conductors (down 2.0%).

In terms of annual change, prices of materials used in house building increased by 1.1 per cent from November 1991 to November 1992 while prices of materials used in other forms of building decreased by 0.4 per cent.

Brisbane recorded the largest price increases over the last year for both categories of building materials, while Adelaide was the only capital city to record a fall in house building material prices (down 0.7%) and also recorded the largest fall for other building material prices (down 1.3%).

### PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, NOVEMBER, 1992 Percentage change

City	<i>House building</i>		<i>Other than house building</i>	
	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Sydney	-0.1	0.6	-0.6	-1.0
Melbourne	0.1	1.8	0.0	-0.3
Brisbane	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.6
Adelaide	0.1	-0.7	0.0	-1.3
Perth	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Hobart	-0.4	1.9	-0.3	0.6
<i>Weighted average of six State capitals</i>	0.0	1.1	-0.2	-0.4
Darwin	— Not available —		-0.1	0.8
Canberra	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1

For further information, order the publications Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0) and Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

## Export prices keep rising

Export prices rose by 0.4 per cent between October and November 1992.

A general factor contributing to the increase was the fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the US dollar and the Japanese Yen.



Price increases were recorded for about 40 per cent of the items in the index. The main contributors to the increase in the total export price index were iron ore, coal and petroleum gases.

These increases were partially offset by price falls for about 30 per cent of the items in the index. The most significant decreases were recorded for refined petroleum products, wool, lead and zinc.

Export prices rose by 8.4 per cent between November 1991 and November 1992. This is the largest annual increase recorded since July 1989.

Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, NOVEMBER 1992  
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	0.6	20.4
Wool and cotton fibres	-1.1	12.3
Live animals and animal products	1.4	9.3
Prepared food stuffs	1.3	8.3
Mineral products	0.5	7.4
Gold, diamonds and coin	1.3	6.9
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.8	6.7
Base metals	-2.3	5.2
Machinery and appliances	0.3	4.0
Products of chemicals or allied industries	1.1	0.7
All exports	0.4	8.4

For further information, order the publication Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Increase in job vacancies

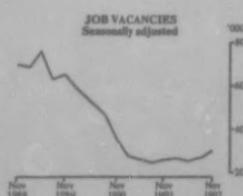
### Job vacancies

The estimated number of job vacancies in Australia increased by 12.5 per cent to 30,200 (seasonally adjusted) in the three months to November 1992. The number of job vacancies was 17.0 per cent higher than it was a year earlier.

In original terms, November 1992 vacancies were estimated at 29,200, a rise of 4.1 per cent from August 1992. There were 22,000 private sector vacancies — an increase of 9.3 per cent since August 1992. In contrast the public sector vacancies were 7,200 — a decrease from the August 1992 estimate of 7,900.

The job vacancy rate (the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of the number of employees plus job vacancies) for Australia remained unchanged at 0.49 per cent.

*Continued ...*





## Overtime

In seasonally adjusted terms for Australia the proportion of employees working overtime in November 1992 was 15.89 per cent, down slightly from 15.94 per cent in August 1992, and marginally higher than the 15.75 per cent in November 1991.

For employees working overtime the estimated average weekly overtime was 7.09 hours per employee in November 1992 (seasonally adjusted), an increase of 2.2 per cent from August 1992 (6.94 hours) and 5.0 per cent from November 1991 (6.75 hours).

*For further information, order the publication Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (6354.0), or contact Ben Isaacs (06) 252 5946.*

## Atlas presents 1991 Census picture of Hobart

The first in a series of eight 1991 Census capital city Social Atlases has been released in Hobart.

*Hobart ...A Social Atlas* provides a pictorial representation of a wide range of social, economic and demographic characteristics of Hobart's 271 Census collection districts.

The 44 high quality maps are supplemented by commentary that analyses the characteristics and highlights the main features. Here is a selection:

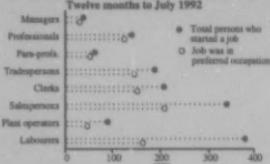
- Gagebrook, the most recent of Hobart's large public housing areas, has an extremely youthful age structure and a median age of only 17.5 years;
- the major concentrations of overseas born people are on the city's western shore, from Moonah southward, with the core in Sandy Bay, Taroona and Kingston;
- in most of the older northern industrial suburbs, and in all major public housing areas, more than 50 per cent of persons over 15 had incomes less than \$12,000; and
- reflecting a dramatic increase in recent decades, the proportion of women in the labour force exceeds 45 per cent in many parts of the city.

Social Atlases for the rest of Australia's capital cities will be produced as data becomes available from the Census. Each atlas will include a common core set of maps to enable comparisons between cities, as well as other maps presenting special features of each city.

*For further information, order the publication Hobart ...A Social Atlas (2840.6), or contact Chris Sweeney (002) 20 5853.*

## Fewer job starters in 1991-92

STARTED JOB IN PREFERRED OCCUPATION  
Twelve months to July 1992



There were 1,453,000 people who started a job for wages or salary in the twelve months to July 1992. Most of these people (71%) had been out of work before starting their job, while 29 per cent changed employer to begin a new job.

These results come from an Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of job search experience, conducted in July 1992. Compared with July 1990, when the previous survey was conducted, 23 per cent fewer people started a job in the year ended July 1992. There was a 4 per cent drop in the number starting a job after being out of work, and a 48 per cent fall in the number who changed employer to start a job.

There were a further 970,800 people who had looked for, but not started, a job for wages or salary in the year to July 1992 — substantially higher (88%) than the July 1990 estimate of 515,600.

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE  
'000 persons

	Year ended July		Percentage change
	1990	1992	
Started a job	1880.3	1453.0	-22.7
Out of work beforehand	1069.0	1029.2	-3.7
Changed employer	811.3	423.8	-47.8
Looked for but had not started a job	515.6	970.8	88.3

Of the people who started a job for wages or salary in 1991-92:

- 39 per cent obtained their job by approaching the employer, without knowing that the job was available;
- 37 per cent approached the employer to obtain a job they knew was available; and
- 24 per cent of jobs had been obtained as a result of the employer approaching the jobseeker

The proportion of persons starting a job in their preferred occupation (65% overall) varied according to a number of characteristics. Persons who started a job as professionals were most likely to be in their preferred occupation (90%) followed by para-professionals (84%).

Persons aged 45 to 54 were most likely to be in their preferred occupation (71%), while persons aged 15 to 19 were least likely to be in their preferred occupation (55%).

People who changed employer to start their job were more likely to be working in their preferred occupation (77%) than those who were out of work prior to starting the job (59%).

*For further information, order the publication Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (6245.0), or contact Mark Patton on (06) 252 7204.*

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
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To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
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### Editor

(06) 252 6104

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 2 February

#### January

[20] Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1992 (5609.0; \$10.70)  
 [21] Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, November 1992 (6412.0; \$10.70)  
 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, December 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.70)  
 [27] Manufacturing Production, Australia, December 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.70)  
 [28] Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1992 (6401.0; \$11.70)  
 Price Indexes of materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, November 1992 (6411.0; \$10.70)  
 Import Price Index, Australia, November 1992 (6414.0; \$8.20)

### Selected releases 13 to 19 January

#### General

Publications Issued in December 1992 (1102.0; free over the counter)  
 Census of Population and Housing  
 1991 Census — Census Courts for Small Areas, Tas. (2730.6; \$25.00)  
 — new issue  
 1991 Census — Social Atlas — Hobart (2840.6; \$45.00) — new issue

#### Demography

Demography, NSW, 1991 (3311.1; \$27.00)  
 Demography, Qld, 1991 (3311.3; \$27.50)

#### Social statistics

National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, NSW, 1989-90 (4375.1; \$80.00) — new issue  
 National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, Vic., 1989-90 (4375.2; \$80.00) — new issue  
 National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, Qld, 1989-90 (4375.3; \$80.00) — new issue  
 National Health Survey: Health Related Actions, SA, 1989-90 (4375.4; \$80.00) — new issue

#### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, November 1992 (5433.0; \$9.70)

#### Labour statistics and prices

Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution), Aust., August 1992 (6310.0; \$12.50)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., November 1992 (6415.0; \$10.70)

The Labour Force, Qld, November 1992 (6201.3; \$16.30)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Retail Trade, Aust., Commodity Details, 1988-89 and 1989-90 (8512.0; \$18.00) — new issue

Building Activity, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (8752.0; \$14.30)

Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (8782.0; \$10.70)

Building Activity, NSW, September Qtr 1992 (8752.1; \$10.70)

Tourist Accommodation, Vic., September Qtr 1992 (8635.2; \$20.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Qld, September Qtr 1992 (8635.3; \$20.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements: Small Area Statistics, Qld, 1991-92 (8743.3; \$10.50) — final issue

Building Approvals, Tas., November 1992 (8731.6; \$10.70)

Building Activity, ACT, September Qtr 1992 (8752.8; \$10.70)

# The latest — consolidated to 19 January 1993

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	Nov. 92	\$m	-1,673	-1,603	8.2	-8.3
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-251	-41	86.7	4.7
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-431	-314	31.9	-22.2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,119	5,107	9.1	13.7
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5,370	-5,148	3.2	13.5
Net foreign debt	30 Sept. 92	\$m	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7
New capital expenditure at 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	Nov. 92	no.	44,550	45,703	4.1	8.6
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Nov. 92	no.	14,600	14,086	1.0	22.1
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,014	1,968	-1.4	22.2
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	3,919	3,805	-0.1	0.9
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	1989-90 = 100.0	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Articles produced by manufacturing industry (d)	Oct. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.1	n.a.	0.1	2.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries	"	1984-85 = 100.0	127.8	n.a.	0.7	7.7
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	Dec. 92	'000	7,750.1	7,660.6	0.3	0.3
Participation rate †	"	%	63.4	62.7	0.2	-0.9
Unemployment rate †	"	"	11.3	11.3	0.0	-0.4
Job vacancies	Nov. 92	'000	29.2	30.2	12.5	17.0
Average weekly overtime per employee (d)	"	hours	1.20	1.13	2.2	5.9
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	June 92	million	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Oct. 92	'000	229	222	2.1	6.4
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Aug. 92	\$	585.80	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
Exchange rate — \$US	Nov. 92	per \$A	0.6902	n.a.	-3.6	-12.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 21 January 1993.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

Key State indicators	Period	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 92	-21.5	-10.5	-5.7	-30.8	-3.4	-13.4	n.a.	n.a.	-14.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Nov. 92	2.5	3.9	8.9	-1.8	11.0	6.6	n.a.	6.6	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	Nov. 92	4.1	9.0	22.1	1.6	5.1	-4.7	38.3	5.0	8.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Nov. 92	29.1	25.1	10.6	3.5	31.1	36.4	31.8	106.7	22.1
Value of total building work done	Sept. qtr 92	-7.6	-5.1	12.5	2.4	12.5	-9.5	26.6	11.2	0.0
Employed persons*	Dec. 92	-1.7	-1.2	2.1	0.1	0.7	-1.6	0.0	6.6	0.3
Capital city consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Aug. 92	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population	June 92	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	2.9

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

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